

Moran: Veterans Affairs Assures Funding for Fort Riley Veterans Cemetery

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) this week assured Congressman Jerry Moran that funding will soon be provided for constructing the Fort Riley State Veterans Cemetery. An agreement between the VA and the state of Kansas will be finalized in the coming weeks so construction can begin this fall as planned.

"Now that Fort Riley's post cemetery has reached capacity, it is more important than ever for this state veterans cemetery to move forward swiftly to provide honorable burial space for Kansas veterans," Moran said. "I spoke to VA leadership and they have assured me that the federal funding for constructing the Fort Riley State Veterans Cemetery is its top priority for fiscal year 2008, which began on October 1. The promised funding will ensure construction can be started on time this fall, despite the federal government currently operating under a short-term budget."

Throughout the last two years, Moran has had meetings and conversations with VA Secretary Jim Nicholson and VA Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Bill Tuerk about the importance of funding the Fort Riley State Veterans Cemetery. The cemetery will be located west of the Manhattan Regional Airport on 90 acres donated by Fort Riley and will include space for about 10,000 burial sites. This will be the fourth state veterans cemetery in Kansas. The state veterans cemeteries provide space for burial for those who have served a term of active duty and been honorably discharged from the military, reserves or National Guard, as well as their dependents. The cemeteries are state-operated, and design and construction costs are paid for by the VA.

Moran is a senior member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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